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Johns-Manville

Executive Bulletin

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENT
PRODUCTION AND ENGINEERING

No: E 772-2
Effective: Immediately

DATE: November 15, 1977 Cancels: New

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR WORKERS HANDLING ASBESTOS

Johns-Manville has greatly reduced exposures to asbestos through engineered controls, improved design, preventive maintenance and training. Today we are operating at or below the maximum exposure levels permitted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (2.0 f/cc). In these low ranges, the reliability of fiber count is + 70%. For this reason, we have established 1.2 f/cc as the action level to insure that with the + 70% variation possible, we will remain at or below the 2.0 f/cc level. We are continually trying to minimize the exposure of all employees but recognize that variations can occasionally occur because of work practices, climate, equipment breakdowns, etc.

Therefore, to insure we do our absolute best in protecting the health of our employees, the following program is established:

Production operators will be required to wear protective clothing and respiratory equipment in those areas where past history indicates fiber levels greater than 1.2 f/cc. Levels are to be determined from the last four (4) industrial hygiene surveys.

Because of the nature of their work, and the difficulty in determining what levels may occasionally be encountered, all maintenance workers performing services in and around asbestos-using equipment will be required to wear protective clothing. Respirators must be worn by all maintenance employees when performing work in production areas where levels are greater than 1.2 f/cc as stated above, or in any unusual assignment where dust conditions are suspect.

The Welsh (Norton) 7170 disposable respirator may be used to meet the above requirement.

Protective clothing will be removed at the end of the shift and disposed of according to location procedures.

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